International Radiation Protection Association

21 January 2026

To: IRPA AS Presidents,
IRPA delegates

Subject: Statement on Women in Radiation Protection (Version 1: April 2025)

Dear Presidents of IRPA Associate Societies and IRPA delegates,

The IRPA Executive Council (EC) is pleased to share, through our Associated Societies, the enclosed Statement on Women in Radiation Protection (Version 1: April 2025), for your review and consideration. This Statement reflects the collective insights and recommendations of the IRPA Task Group on Women in Radiation (TG WiR), established in 2021 to advance gender equity, inclusivity, and the recognition of women's contributions within the radiation protection profession.

The Statement highlights the essential role of diversity in strengthening decision-making, safety culture, and innovation across our field. While women have historically shaped radiation protection, their continued under-representation in leadership, research, and policy—together with systemic challenges such as workplace bias, inequitable funding, and disproportionate caregiving responsibilities—calls for urgent action. Addressing these barriers is vital to creating a fairer professional environment that benefits all practitioners and inspires future generations.

The TG WiR's recommendations build upon feedback gathered during IRPA16 (Orlando, 2024) and subsequent global consultations. They emphasize practical strategies to:

- Promote mentorship, training, and equitable access to funding opportunities.
- Strengthen workplace policies, including childcare support and flexible work arrangements.
- Foster international collaboration and enhance visibility of women's achievements.
- Secure the next generation through early STEM outreach and inclusive recruitment.

The Statement sets out eight priority calls to action for IRPA and its Associated Societies, including:

1. Advocating for gender-sensitive training and leadership sponsorship programs.
2. Establishing platforms for global networking and knowledge exchange.
3. Embedding equity principles in conference planning, funding criteria, and recruitment practices.
4. Launching outreach initiatives to engage youth in radiation protection.

We cordially invite and encourage the Associated Societies not only to endorse this Statement but also to actively contribute to its implementation. This may include integrating the recommendations into your institutional policies, organizing national or regional initiatives—such as workshops, mentorship schemes, or awareness campaigns—collaborating across societies to share best practices, and reporting

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progress back to IRPA. Through both individual efforts and collective cooperation, we can ensure that women thrive as leaders, innovators, and role models—strengthening radiation protection worldwide.
Empowering women in radiation protection is not only a matter of fairness; it is a necessity for progress, safety, and sustainability. Together, through both individual initiatives and collective cooperation, we can ensure that our profession benefits fully from the breadth of talent, perspectives, and expertise it encompasses.

Thank you for your attention to this important initiative.

IRPA and members of the TG on WIR look forward to your collaboration and support in advancing these shared goals.

Best regards,

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